exercise administrative or financial powers vested in the full-fledged incumbent of the post, but he cannot exercise statutory powers. Where the appointment to hold the current duties of a post involves the exercise of statutory or such other power conferred on the holders of the post, the appointment should also be notified in the Gazette.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. During the year 2002-03, the incumbents holding the charge of the post of Commissioner, Central Excise, Patna, were appointed on regular basis.

Financial relief to sick industrial units

*577. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have so far taken any decision to provide financial relief to sick industrial units running into heavy losses for the last three years till date, State-wise and year-wise; and

(b) the names of industries which were given such relief and the amount paid to each of them till date, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Under the Policy Package for stepping up credit to Small and Medium Enterprises announced on 10th August, 2005, RBI has issued detailed guidelines to banks, from time to time, to detect sickness at an early stage and take remedial measures for rehabilitation of sick SSI units identified as potentially viable. The State Level Inter-Institutional Committee (SLIIC) has been set up in each State under the convenorship of RBI to deal with the problems of co-ordination for rehabilitation of sick SSI units. Government does not have a separate financial package for sick industries.

No major discoveries by ONGC

†*578. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards the news report appeared in the print media recently regarding ONGC admitting no major discoveries in the last twenty years;

(b) if so, the details thereof this fact that no major discoveries have been made during the last twenty years by ONGC; and

(c) the number of oil-reserves found during the said period in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It may be clarified that Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) considers the terminology "Major Discovery" as discovery of 500 MMboe (Million Barrels oil equivalent) of recoverable reserves, and ONGC not having made any such discovery during the period referred to the media article would have a degree of validity.

It may, however, be stated that ONGC's exploration strategy is a mix of resource utilization for exploration while also concentrating its efforts towards field growth. Thus, ONGC has also been focusing on exploration in areas contiguous to known discoveries. If the discovered 20 major fields of ONGC are considered, in the twenty year period mentioned in the article (1987—2007), ONGC has, in fact, accreted 3990 MMboe (O+OEG) of recoverable reserves equivalent to eight majors (giants). The discoveries made by ONGC under Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) regime are under various stages of appraisal. Size of discoveries will be known after the appraisal.

(c) As far as ONGC is concerned, it has established 2876.98 million metric tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas (MMtoe) inplace including accretion from field growth which includes 1811.21 MMt oil inplace in the last twenty years (1987-2007).

As far as Private Companies/Joint Ventures (JVs) are concerned, initial inplace oil reserves as on 1.4.2006 are 548.77 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT).

Gas reserves in Krishna Godavari basin

*579. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether gas producers have shown any interest to tap the huge gas reserves identified in the KG basin; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefore?